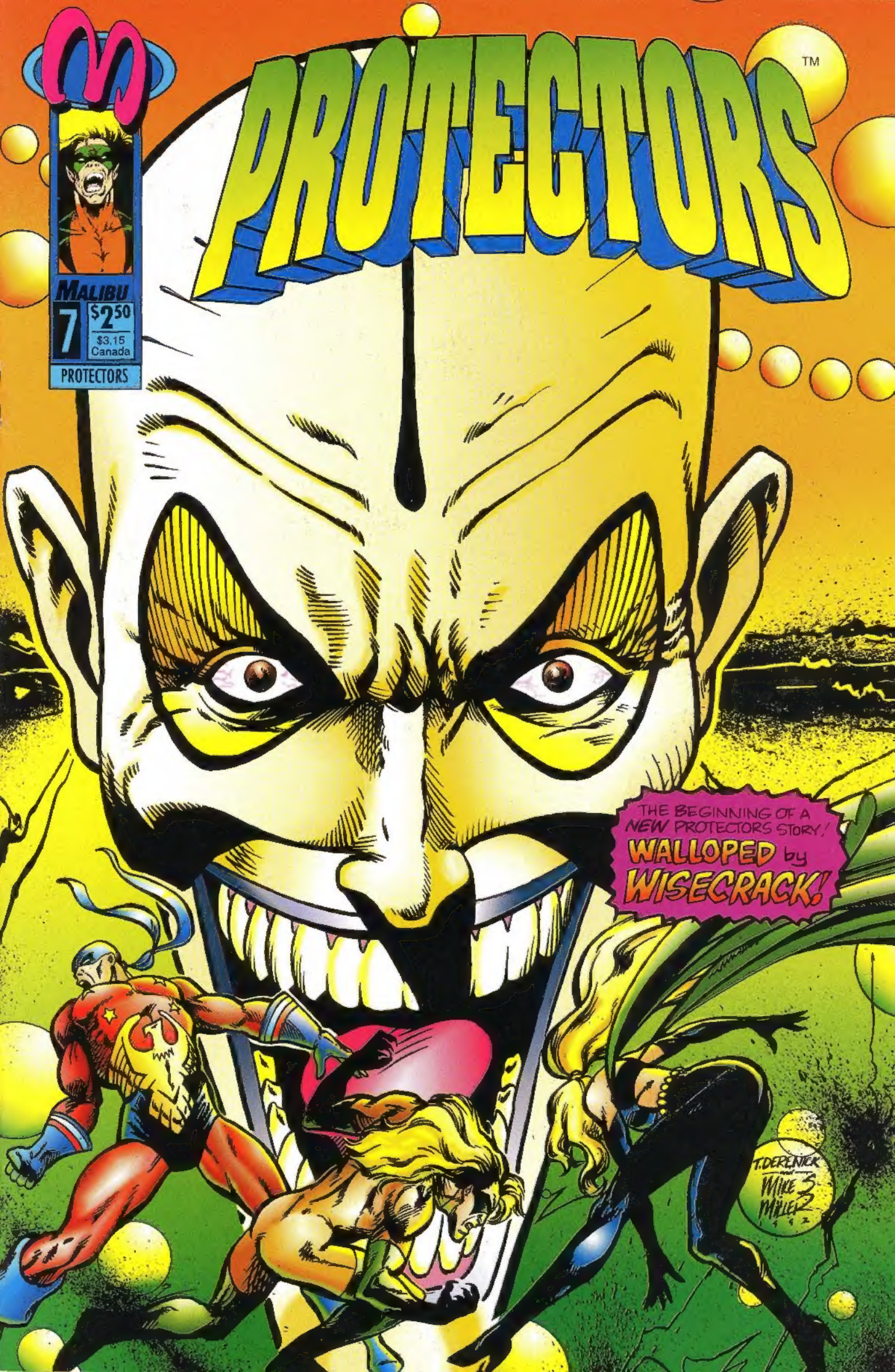
PROTECTORS
MALIBU
7
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PROTECTORS
THE BEGINNING OF A NEW PROTECTORS STORY!
WALLOPED by WISECRACK!
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MIKE & MILLER

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BSG

PRELUDE TO
CHAOS
HA HA HA
HE CALLS HIMSELF WISECRACK... BUT HE'S NO LAUGHING MATTER.
HE WAS ONCE CONSIDERED TO BE ONE OF THE VILEST SUPRANORMALS EVER TO PLAGUE MANKIND.
NO ONE HAS SEEN HIM FOR FIVE YEARS NOW.
AT LEAST--

--NO ONE ON EARTH.
THAT'S IT, CHILDREN--KEEP THOSE LAZY WRETCHES MOVING.
I EXPECT THEM TO HAVE MY NEW SUMMER PALACE BUILT WITHIN THE MONTH.
SH-RAAK!
KRAAK!
>AAAAH< WE'VE DONE RIGHT WELL SINCE WE FOUND OURSELVES HERE--HAVEN'T WE, JACKDAW?
I'D STILL RATHER BE BACK ON EARTH.
OF COURSE YOU WOULD, YOU IDIOT! SO WOULD I!
BUT UNTIL WE CAN FIND A WAY OUT OF THIS PLACE--WE'LL MAKE THE MOST OF WHAT WE'VE GOT.
OH, JACKDAW--I DESERVE FAR BETTER THAN TO BE STUCK IN THIS ALIEN HELLHOLE.
IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF THOSE SO-CALLED HEROES.
I WISH I'D NEVER HEARD OF THEM--

"--OR THAT DAMNABLE LITTLE TOWN IN VIRGINIA!"

THIS IS RHONDA JO GEIGER--REPORTING LIVE FOR WTAB.

WITH THE RECENT CAPTURE OF THE NOTORIOUS MR. MONDAY--AND THE BREAK-UP OF HIS STEEL ARMY--WASHINGTON IS RELATIVELY QUIET ONCE AGAIN.

THE SUPRANORMAL TEAM KNOWN AS THE PROTECTORS IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT RETURN TO NORMALCY. BUT SOME MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ARE NOW ASKING:

"WITH THE DANGER PASSED ...DO WE STILL NEED THE PROTECTORS?"

THANK YOU FOR BEING WITH US TODAY, MAN OF WAR.

AS YOU KNOW, THE SENATE IS ABOUT TO BEGIN DEBATE ON WHETHER OR NOT WE WILL CONTINUE TO FUND YOUR ORGANIZATION.

IT WILL BE THE JOB OF THIS SUB-COMMITTE TO MAKE A RECOMMENDATION.

BUT I MUST SAY, SIR, THAT I HAVE A HARD TIME TAKING YOU OR YOUR COLLEAGUES SERIOUSLY--

WHEN YOU APPEAR BEFORE US DRESSED IN GARISH MASKS AND COSTUMES.

FIRST OF ALL, SENATOR--WE DON'T CALL THEM "COSTUMES".

WE PREFER TO THINK OF THEM AS UNIFORMS.

AS FOR THE MASKS...

WE FIND THEM ESSENTIAL IN PROTECTING OURSELVES AND OUR FAMILIES FROM POTENTIAL ENEMIES.

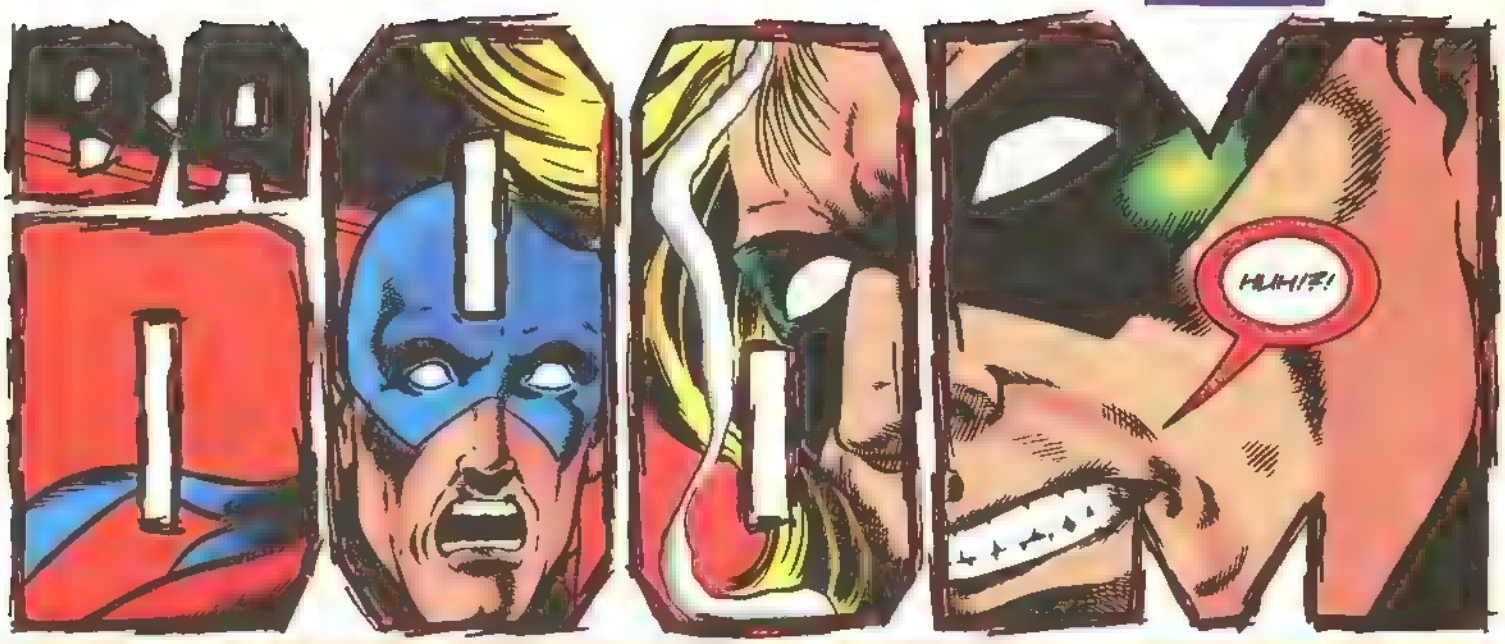
I SEE. THAT'S VERY... CAUTIOUS OF YOU. BUT YOU DON'T SEE US WEARING MASKS--
AND LORD KNOWS WE HAVE PLENTY OF ENEMIES! >HEH-HEH!<
YES, SIR --THAT'S TRUE.
BUT YOURS CAN'T DESTROY SKYSCRAPERS WITH THEIR BARE HANDS.
AND WHAT ABOUT THE MATTER OF PUBLIC SAFETY, SIR?
CAN YOUR TEAM GUARANTEE THERE WILL BE NO REPEAT OF THE DISASTER THAT DESTROYED THE CITY OF BRINKSTON, VIRGINIA?
NO, SENATOR --WE CAN'T. THIS WORLD DOESN'T COME WITH GUARANTEES--
AS YOU WELL KNOW.
BUT I CAN SAY THIS:
WE PROTECTORS ARE SWORN TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO PRESERVE LIFE--

"AND WE WILL NOT VIOLATE THAT OATH!"
MEANWHILE, ELSEWHERE IN THE CITY...
I CAN'T BELIEVE THE AMERICANS THOUGHT THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO HOLD ME.
THEY SHOULD LET US SHOW THEM HOW TO BUILD JAILS, EH?
WHEN WILL THE PLANE BE READY, TITO?
IT WILL BE AT THE AIRPORT IN ONE HOUR, DON MIGUEL.
EXCELLENT.
I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO SMELL THE SWEET AIR OF COLOMBIA AGAIN!
FORGET IT, SLEEZEBALL. THE ONLY THING YER GONNA BE SMELLING--

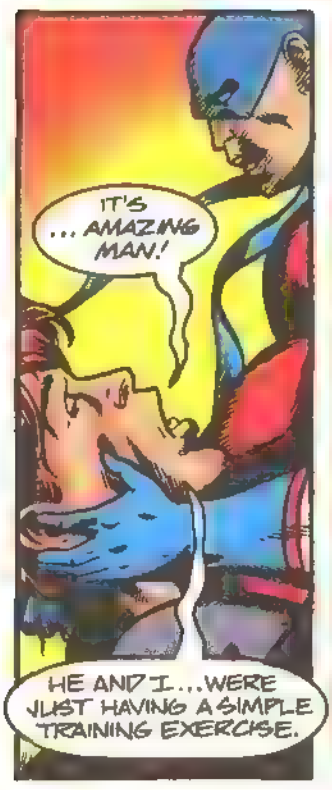
--IS THE BODY ODOR COMING FROM YER CELLMATE BUBBA!
NOW, YOU CAN MAKE THIS EASY DON MIGUEL-- BY SURRENDERING PEACEFULLY--
OR YOU CAN MAKE IT HARD --BY GIVIN' ME A HARD TIME.
PLEASE.
TITO--GET HIM OUT OF HERE.
SI, PATRON.
ARE YOU GOING TO COME ALONG QUIETLY, LITTLE ONE?
YER OBVIOUSLY NOT FAMILIAR WITH ME, TACO.
IF YOU WERE--
>HU-UKK!<
YOU'D KNOW I NEVER DO ANYTHING QUIETLY.
KA SSWASH!

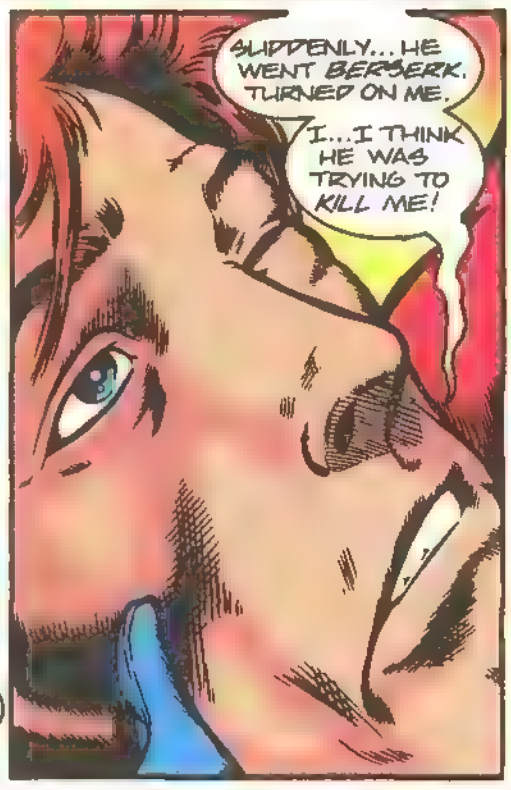
¡MADRE DE DIOS!
AAACK!
KRNNNCH!
HEY--
LET'S LEAVE GOD'S MOTHER OUT OF THIS!
CHOW!
NOW IT'S JUST YOU AND ME, DON MIGUEL.
GUESS WHO'S GONNA LOSE.
NO...
PLEASE DON'T HURT ME!
BELIEVE ME, DRUG-LORD--
"HURT" DOESN'T BEGIN TO DESCRIBE WHAT I'M GONNA DO TO YOU...

DAMMIT, FERRET--
THIS TIME YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.
I BROUGHT DON MIGUEL IN ALIVE.
ALIVE?! YES--
BUT WITH MULTIPLE FRACTURES OF BOTH ARMS AND BOTH LEGS!
READ OUR CHARTER, MAN. IT SAYS NUTHIN' ABOUT BROKEN BONES.
OH, SURE. YOU OBEYED THE LETTER OF THE LAW ...BUT YOU TORE THE SPIRIT OF IT ALL TO HELL!
AND THAT DOESN'T CUT IT WITH ME, MISTER. YOU KNOW MY RULES.
IF YOU CAN'T ABIDE BY THEM--
I'LL BOUNCE YOU OFF THE TEAM SO FAST YOUR HEAD WILL SPIN.
DON'T THREATEN ME, LEADER-MAN.
I JUST MIGHT--


BA
HUH!?!

MIGHTY MAN!
WHAT HAPPENED, SCOTT?


IT'S ... AMAZING MAN!
HE AND I ... WERE JUST HAVING A SIMPLE TRAINING EXERCISE.


SUDDENLY... HE WENT BERSERK. TURNED ON ME.
I...I THINK HE WAS TRYING TO KILL ME!

AURA--STAY HERE AND LOOK AFTER SCOTT
THE REST OF YOU... FOLLOW ME.

GET OUT!
GET OUT!
TAKE IT EASY, A-MAN!
EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT. WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOU. LET US--
RRRAGH!
CHAK!
AS USUAL-- CLAY WAS TALKING WHEN HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN FIGHTING.
WHACK
I WON'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE!
FRAPP!

UUUHHNG!
PA-KOW

FERRET! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
NEVER MIND ME, ARC.
USE YOUR ELECTRICAL POWER -- AND FRY HIM!
I CAN'T DO THAT -- HE'S ONE OF US!
DAMMIT, KID--
DO WHAT I SAY!
NO, ARC...
LET ME HANDLE THIS ...WITHOUT HITTING HIM.
IT'S ME, JOHN -- ANDREA
YOU DON'T WANT TO HURT ME DO YOU?
YOU KNOW THAT I'M YOUR FRIEND.
YOUR BEST FRIEND.
YES.
YES

I'M SORRY, MAN OF WAR. I DON'T KNOW WHAT CAME OVER ME.
IT'S ALL RIGHT, JOHN. NO ONE WAS SERIOUSLY HURT.
OH, FOR THE LOVE OF--
WHEN ARE YOU GONNA FACE FACTS, CLAY? THE GUY'S A FREAKIN' LUNATIC!
HE'S THE ONE YOU SHOULD BOUNCE OFF THE TEAM!
YOU KNOW, FERRET--I'M GROWING INCREASINGLY SICK OF YOU.
THAT GOES DOUBLE FOR ME, BIG GUY. I'M READY TO TAKE YOU DOWN RIGHT NOW!
BACK OFF-- BOTH OF YOU. IT'S OBVIOUS THAT AMAZING MAN HAS A SERIOUS PROBLEM--
BUT IT'S ONE WE WILL HELP HIM OVERCOME.
THIS IS AWFUL. SOMEONE COULD HAVE BEEN KILLED.
AND LOOK AT THE WITCH OVER THERE...
"SHE SEEMS TO BE ENVOYING ALL THIS!"

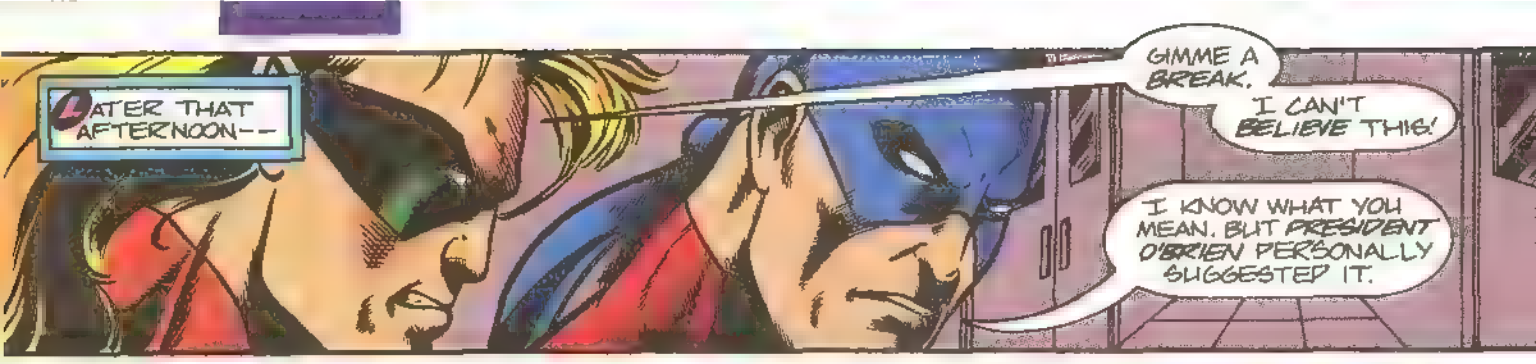
THE GEORGETOWN DISTRICT.
THE MANSION BELONGING TO ETERNAL MAN SITS IN ISOLATED SPLENDOR
OUTSIDE, THE SUN BEAMS IN WARM MAJESTY.
WHILE INSIDE--
SHADOWS SWALLOW THE LIGHT.
MISS BAYLESS LOOKS SAD, PRINCE ZARD!.
NONSENSE, NOGI. SHE JUST HAS A MILD CASE OF SPRING FEVER, THAT'S ALL.
I'LL SOON REMEDY THAT.
JANNI?
YOU LOOK SO LOVELY TODAY DARLING. COME UPSTAIRS WITH ME?
OF COURSE, ZARD!.
HE LOVES HER WITH ALL HIS HEART--I KNOW THAT. BUT I WONDER...
CAN LOVE BECOME AN EVIL THING?

*NIGHT MASK WAS KILLED BY THE VILLAINOUS MR. MONDAY IN PROTECTORS #5.

GIVE IT TIME. IT'LL HAPPEN.
ARE YOU GOING TO BE AT THE MEETING I'VE CALLED THIS EVENING?
YES, I'LL BE THERE. BUT I WANT TO STAY HERE A LITTLE LONGER.
SHE'S A GOOD PERSON.
WE'RE LUCKY TO HAVE HER.
I PROMISE I WON'T EVER FORGET YOU, RICHARD.
AND I WON'T LET THE OTHERS FORGET, EITHER.
I JUST WISH THERE WAS MORE I COULD DO.
PERHAPS THERE IS.
EH?
YOU ARE A WOMAN OF GREAT COURAGE, MARCIA BECKWORTH --
OF NOBLE AMBITION.
ALL YOU NEED IS A LITTLE HELP--
TO REALIZE YOUR FULL POTENTIAL.

THE WHITE HOUSE...
IT SEEMS SO QUIET--SO PEACE-FUL--NOW THAT MR. MONDAY IS LOCKED AWAY.
YES, MR. PRESIDENT. BUT WE BOTH KNOW OTHERWISE
I WISH IT WASN'T SO
DO YOU THINK IT'S TIME FOR US TO TELL THE REST OF THE PROTECTORS?
NO. IT'S NOT YET SAFE TO DO SO.
FOR NOW--THIS MUST BE SHARED ONLY BY THE TWO OF US.
THE TRUE BATTLE IS YET TO COME, GRAVESTONE.
THE OTHERS WILL LEARN SOON ENOUGH.

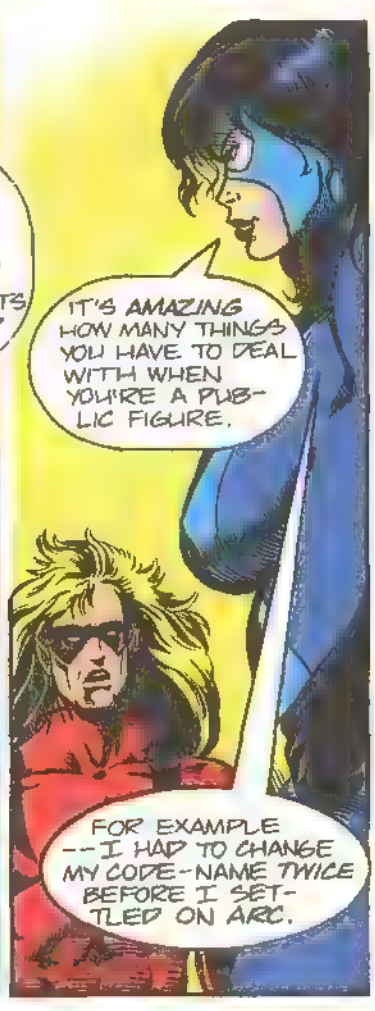
* IN THE ARROW #1.


LATER THAT AFTERNOON--
GIMME A BREAK.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN. BUT PRESIDENT O'BRIEN PERSONALLY SUGGESTED IT.

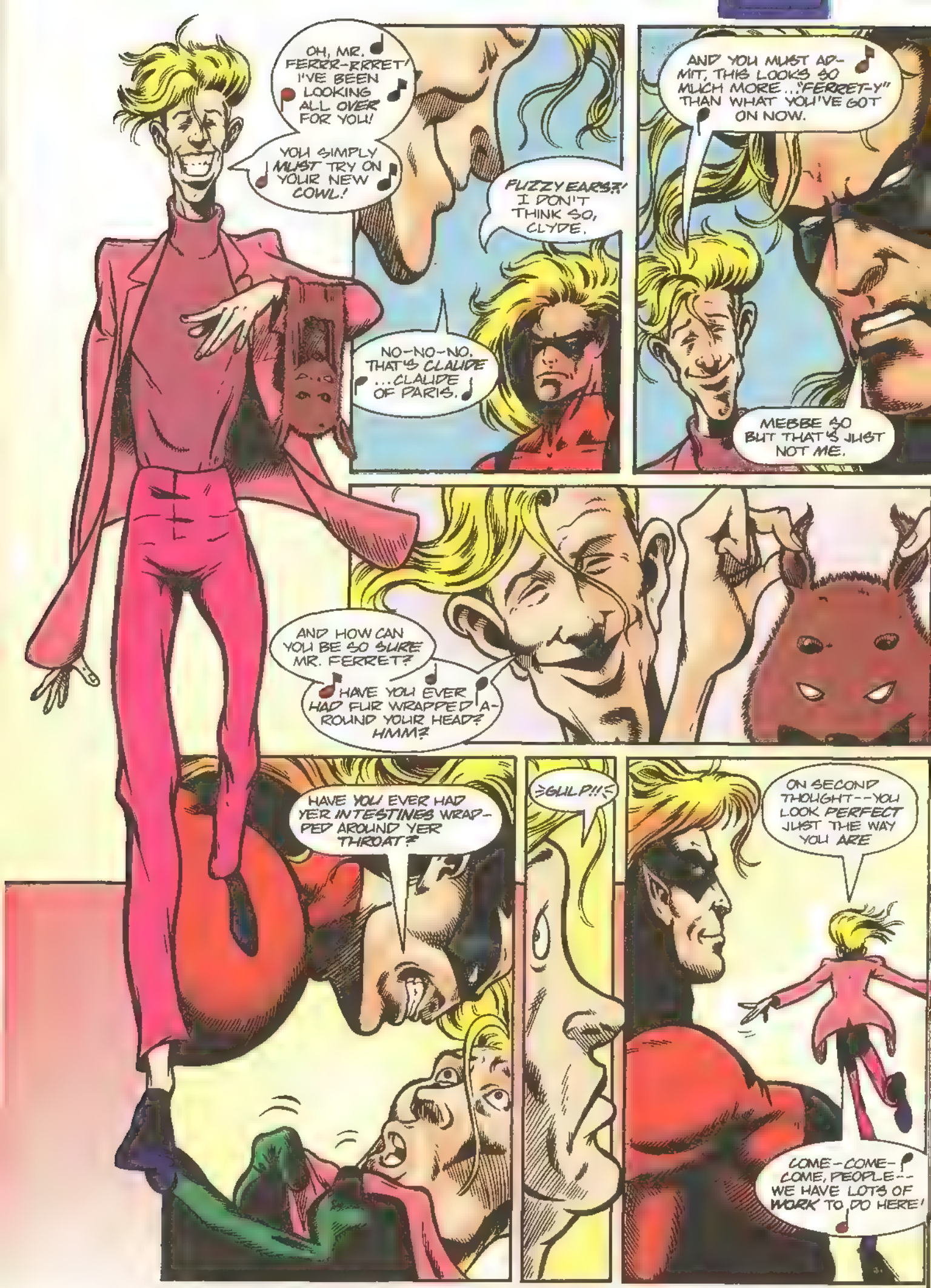
"HE FELT SOME OF OUR OLD UNIFORMS NEEDED TO BE SPRUCED UP A BIT. THEY WERE TOO-- 'RETRO-'70s' I BELIEVE WAS THE TERM HE USED."
"RETRO-'70s'? WE GOTTA TAKE THAT FROM A GEEZER WHO WAS LAST IN FASHION DURING THE EISENHOWER ADMINISTRATION?"

C'MON, YOU GUYS --GET WITH IT!
YER ACTUALLY GOING ALONG WITH THIS, ARC?
OH, SURE. MY AGENT TELLS ME IT'LL BE GREAT FOR MY IMAGE!

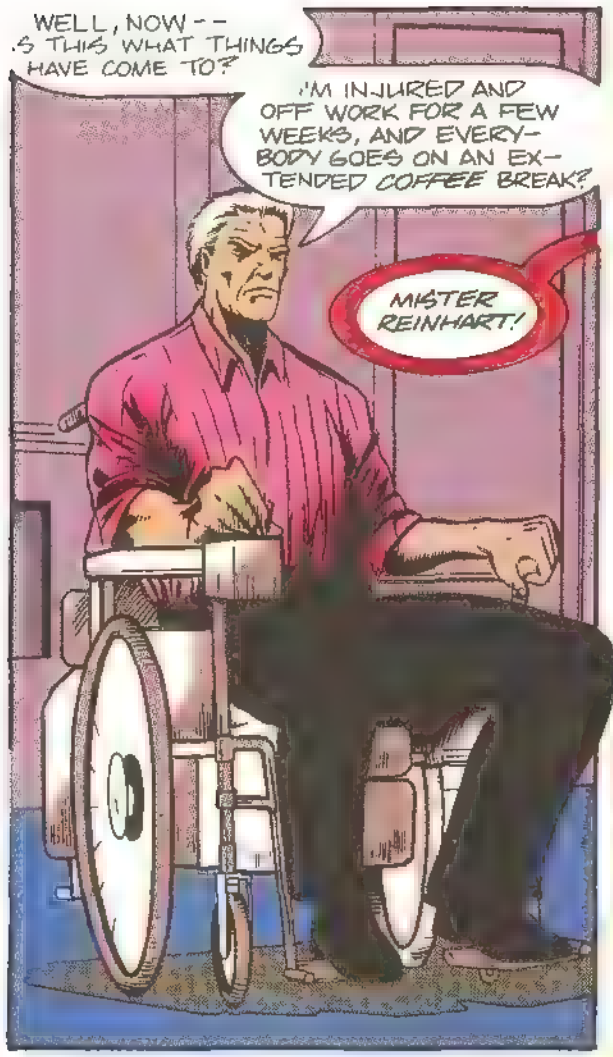
YOU HAVE AN AGENT?
RIGHT. YOU KNOW-- TO HANDLE PERSONAL APPEARANCES, COMMERCIAL ENDORSEMENTS --THAT KIND OF THING.


IT'S AMAZING HOW MANY THINGS YOU HAVE TO DEAL WITH WHEN YOU'RE A PUBLIC FIGURE.
FOR EXAMPLE --I HAD TO CHANGE MY CODE-NAME TWICE BEFORE I SETTLED ON ARC.

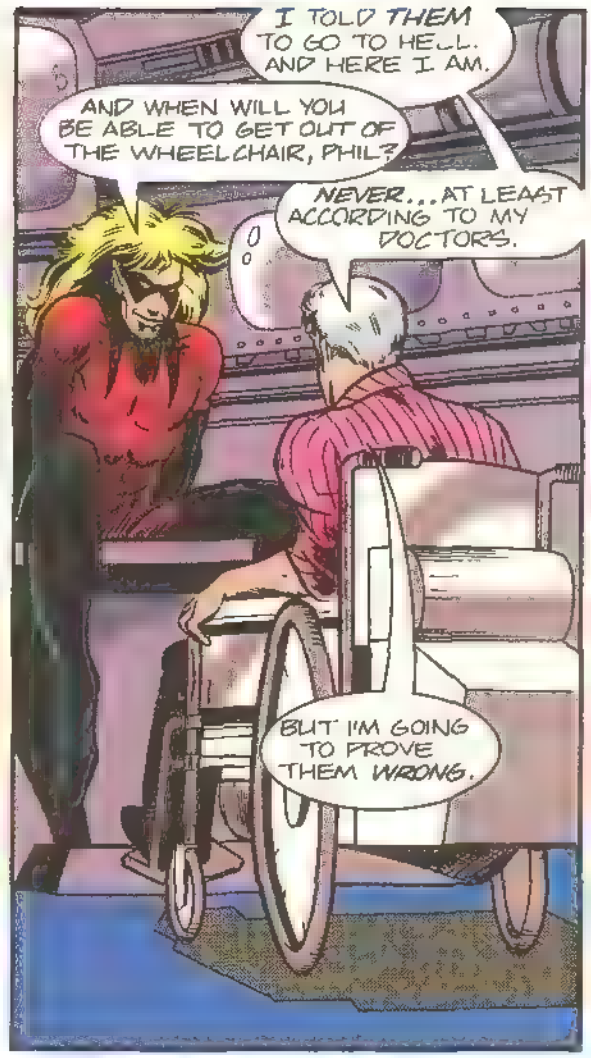
HOW COME?
IF YOU CAN IMAGINE --BOTH TIMES SOME SILLY COMIC BOOK PUBLISHER THREATENED TO SUE ME FOR TRADEMARK INFRINGEMENT!

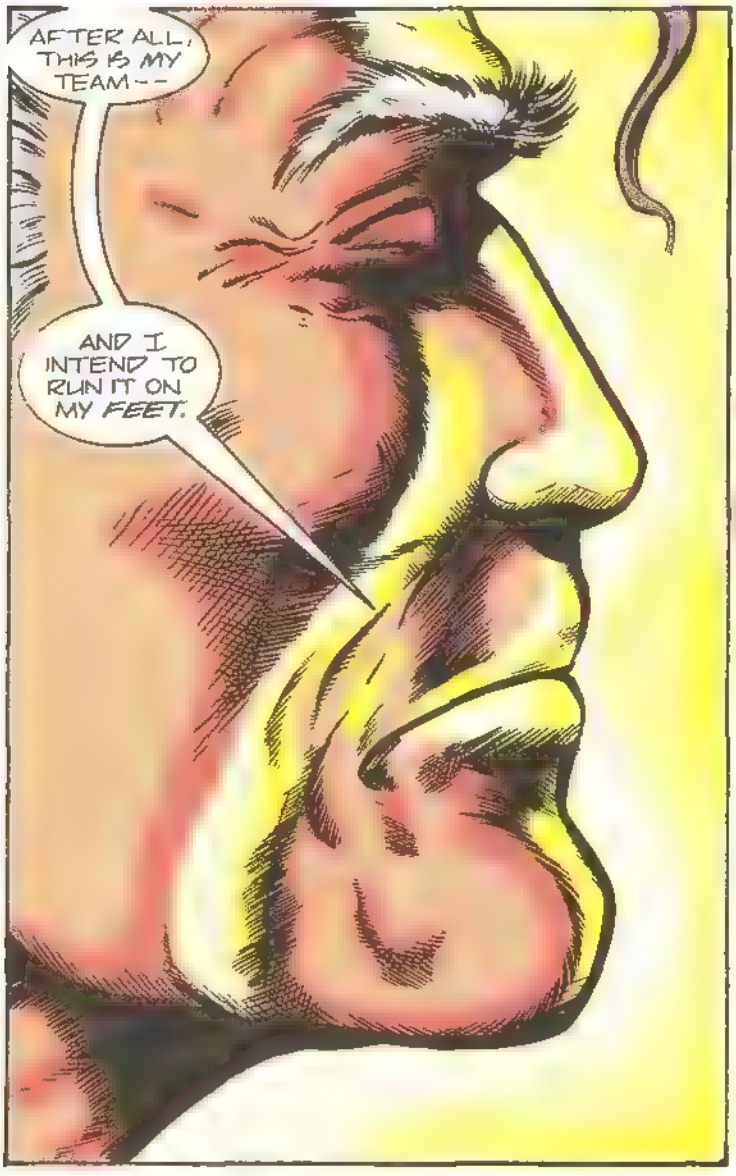

OH, MR. FERRR-RRRET! I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU!
YOU SIMPLY MUST TRY ON YOUR NEW COWL!
FUZZY EARS?! I DON'T THINK SO, CLYDE.
NO-NO-NO. THAT'S CLAUDE ...CLAUDE OF PARIS.
AND YOU MUST ADMIT, THIS LOOKS SO MUCH MORE..."FERRET-Y" THAN WHAT YOU'VE GOT ON NOW.
MEBBE SO BUT THAT'S JUST NOT ME.
AND HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE MR. FERRET?
HAVE YOU EVER HAD FUR WRAPPED AROUND YOUR HEAD? HMM?
HAVE YOU EVER HAD YER INTESTINES WRAPPED AROUND YER THROAT?
GULP!!
ON SECOND THOUGHT--YOU LOOK PERFECT JUST THE WAY YOU ARE
COME-COME-COME, PEOPLE--WE HAVE LOTS OF WORK TO DO HERE!

THE DECOMMISSIONED LIBERTY SHIP U.S.S. JEFFERSON SITS IN THE WASHINGTON NAVAL YARD, LIT BY THE SETTING SUN.
ITS WARTIME DUTIES ARE FADED MEMORIES, BUT IT NOW SERVES AN EQUALLY IMPORTANT FUNCTION--
AS HEADQUARTERS FOR THE PROTECTORS.
GOOD EVENING, LADIES. READY FOR THE BIG MEETING THAT BIRD BOY AIRMAN HAS CALLED?
ALMOST. WE JUST WANTED TO GRAB A BITE BEFORE GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS.
A "BITE"? YOU COULD FEED A SMALL COUNTRY WITH WHAT AURA'S PUTTING AWAY!
HOW CAN SHE EAT LIKE THAT AND STILL STAY SO THIN?
>SNIFF-SNIFF< AND THAT'S NOT WATER SHE'S WASHING IT DOWN WITH--
IT'S STRAIGHT VODKA!
I HOPE WE DON'T HAVE ANOTHER PROBLEM BREWING HERE


WELL, NOW -- IS THIS WHAT THINGS HAVE COME TO?
I'M INJURED AND OFF WORK FOR A FEW WEEKS, AND EVERYBODY GOES ON AN EXTENDED COFFEE BREAK?
MISTER REINHART!

WELCOME BACK, SIR.
THEY TOLD ME I SHOULD STAY IN THE HOSPITAL A WHILE LONGER--


I TOLD THEM TO GO TO HELL. AND HERE I AM.
AND WHEN WILL YOU BE ABLE TO GET OUT OF THE WHEELCHAIR, PHIL?
NEVER... AT LEAST ACCORDING TO MY DOCTORS.
BUT I'M GOING TO PROVE THEM WRONG.


AFTER ALL, THIS IS MY TEAM--
AND I INTEND TO RUN IT ON MY FEET.

YOUR TEAM, OLD-TIMER?
I WONDER HOW MAN OF WAR WILL FEEL ABOUT THAT?

WITHIN THE HOUR, ALL MEMBERS OF THE TEAM ARE ASSEMBLED TOGETHER--

EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES -- UNITED IN COMMON CAUSE

ALL RIGHT, PEOPLE--

COME TO ORDER.

WE'RE HERE AT *AIRMAN'S* REQUEST--SO I'LL YIELD THE FLOOR TO HIM.

THANKS, CLAY. LET ME START BY SAYING I'VE BROUGHT AN OLD *FRIEND* WITH ME TONIGHT. *HE'S* THE REAL REASON FOR THIS MEETING.

FOR THOSE WHO DON'T KNOW HIM, LET ME INTRODUCE--

THRESHER!

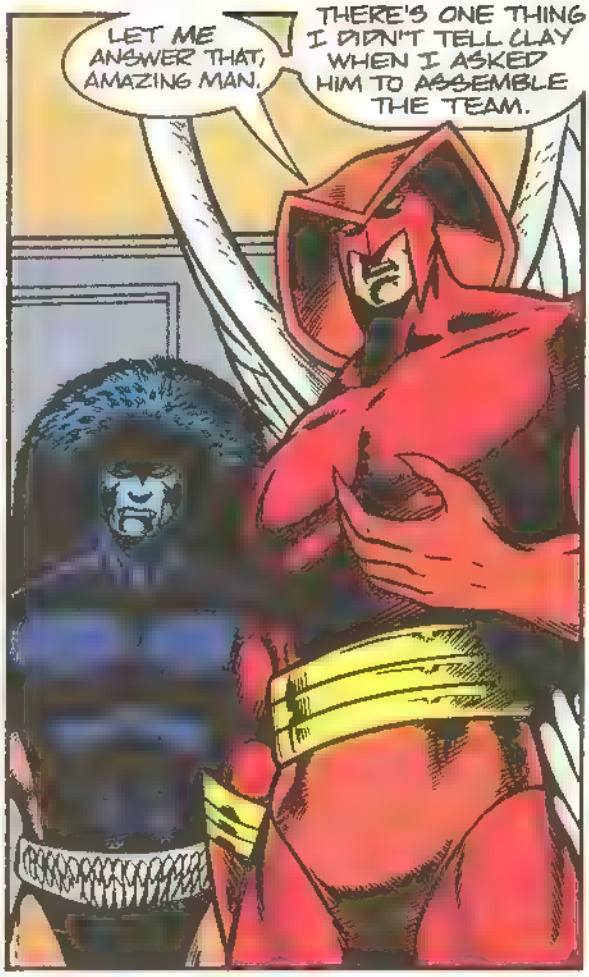
I'LL GET RIGHT TO THE POINT

I ASSUME DRAKE HAS TOLD YOU HOW HE RECENTLY RESCUED ME FROM CAPTIVITY*

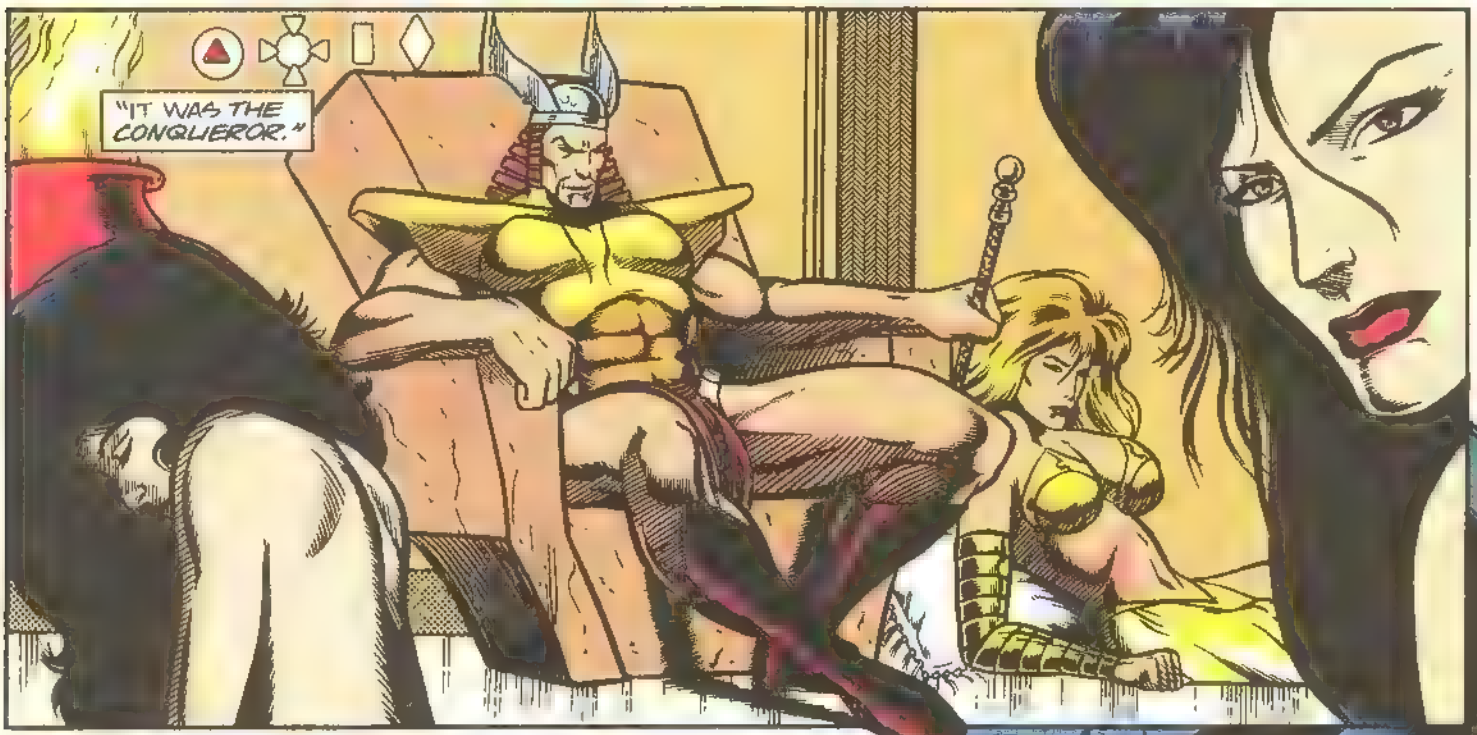
* AS YOU SAW--*IF* YOU READ THE *AIRMAN* ONE-SHOT SPECIAL (AND IF YOU DIDN'T, SHAME ON YOU).

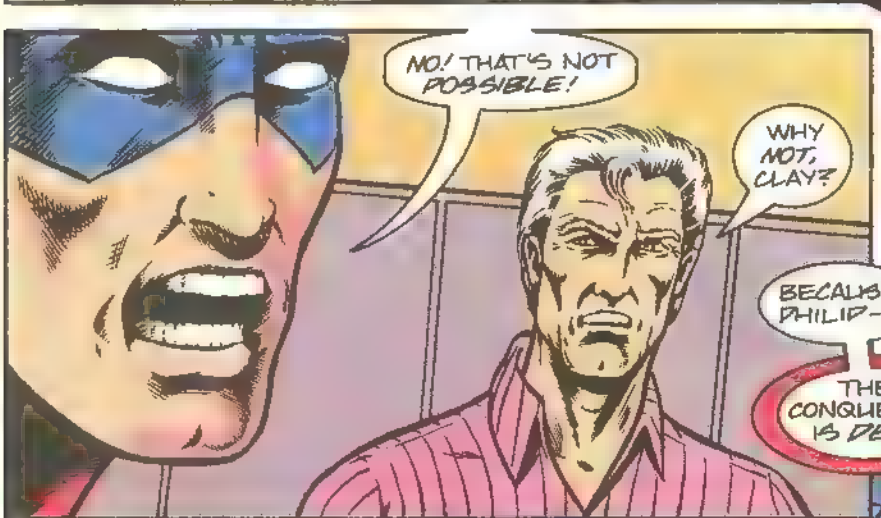
YES, HE GAVE ME A FEW DETAILS WHEN HE ASKED FOR THIS MEETING.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR CAPTOR WANTED WITH YOU?
I THINK SO.
HE KEPT ASKING ME ABOUT --DOORS.
DOORS? WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE HE MEANT BY THAT?
I CAN'T BE SURE --BUT I THINK HE WAS TALKING ABOUT DOORWAYS TO OTHER DIMENSIONS.
"THERE ARE PASSAGEWAYS THAT CONNECT OUR WORLD WITH OTHER WORLDS. I KNOW THIS-"
"BECAUSE MY MOTHER CAME FROM ONE OF THOSE OTHER DIMENSIONS."
"EVENTUALLY, SHE RETURNED TO THAT WORLD--AND THE DOORWAY CLOSED BEHIND HER."
"I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO FIND THAT DOOR--OR FIGURE OUT HOW TO OPEN A SIMILAR ONE."
BUT I THINK MY FOE BELIEVED I DID KNOW THE SECRET--
AND HE WANTED THAT KNOWLEDGE FOR HIMSELF.

THAT'S A VERY INTERESTING STORY YOU'VE TOLD, THRESHER.
BUT WHAT DOES IT HAVE TO DO WITH US?


LET ME ANSWER THAT, AMAZING MAN.
THERE'S ONE THING I DIDN'T TELL CLAY WHEN I ASKED HIM TO ASSEMBLE THE TEAM.

YOU SEE--I RECOGNIZED THE MAN WHO HAD CAPTURED THRESHER.
I KNOW SOME OF YOU WILL BE FAMILIAR WITH HIS NAME.


"IT WAS THE CONQUEROR."


NO! THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE!
WHY NOT, CLAY?
BECAUSE, PHILIP--
THE CONQUEROR IS DEAD!

"IN THE MIDST OF THE BATTLE, A BLINDING EXPLOSION DESTROYED THE CITY--AND MOST OF ITS INHABITANTS.
THAT WAS THE ONLY GOOD THING THAT CAME OUT OF THE DISASTER AT BRINKSTON FIVE YEARS AGO.
"BUT IT ALSO DESTROYED MOST OF THE SUPRANORMAL VILLAINS WE'D ENCOUNTERED UP TO THAT POINT--
"INCLUDING THE CONQUEROR."
I KNOW THAT, CLAY--BUT I ALSO KNOW WHAT I SAW ON THE ISLAND WHERE THRESHER WAS A PRISONER.
I'M TELLING YOU --IT WAS THE CONQUEROR!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?
IF THE CONQUEROR DID SURVIVE THAT HOLOCAUST--
THEN THERE COULD BE OTHER SURVIVORS AS WELL.
WE'VE GOT TO INVESTIGATE THIS, CLAY.
COUNT ME IN, PHILIP.
WHO--?
MARCIA?
IS THAT YOU?!

YES, CLAY. BUT WHILE I'M WEARING THIS UNIFORM, MAYBE YOU SHOULD CALL ME--
NIGHTMASK!™
to be CONTINUED

PROTECTORS™

Write To:
Malibu Comics/Protectors
5321 Sterling Center Dr.
Westlake Village, CA 91361

Well, here we are again and that Protectors *plot just keeps on twisting. I hope you're set to start snapping up the* Protectors *mini-series (*Man of War *in April,* Ferret *in May,* Gravestone *in July) to keep abreast of the entire* Protectors *situation. Meanwhile, several things have developed in the letters page:*

First, I'll be answering the letters these days instead of Mr. Tom Mason, who has become increasingly busy with his own projects like Dinosaurs For Hire *and the up and coming comic chronicles of* Star Trek: Deep Space Nine.

Second, Protectors *editor, Roland Mann, and artist, Thomas Derenick, have a contest for you! Name the* Protectors *letter page and you walk away with a two page spread of Mr. Derenick's original art from not yet seen issue #8! Just send your suggestions into the folks here at Malibu, and we'll pick the winner. Is that a deal or what?!*

And lastly, your letters....

Dear Sirs,

While I harbor doubts about the *Protectors*' future, it continues to impress, each issue surpassing the last.

While many of the characters remain one-dimensional, others have already emerged into their own, the Ferret and Arc being forerunners among them. The characterization of Gravestone has also been nicely handled. Man Of War, Aura and Night Mask have potential and the Witch could prove interesting, but the others have yet to impress me. I would suggest focusing on a core group (preferably those mentioned above), leaving the rest as cannon fodder to be killed off at some future date.

The team of Derenick and Deodato continues to turn out enjoyable work, though I have to admit their coarse style took a bit of getting used to.

Sincerely,
Marson Fedrick
Ellisville, MS

As much as you like your core group, we just may need them all. Sorry about Night Mask, though. These things happen. But what do you think of the new (and improved?) Night Mask?

Dear Chris and R.A.,

Normally I don't care much for super-hero team books.

Needless to say I loved *Protectors* #4! The first thing that struck me was the art. Instead of a bunch of unrelated panels each looking like a poster, you have here honest to goodness comic-strip art. It is flowing and dynamic. A comic isn't supposed to be an illustrated story; a comic tells a story using words and pictures together.

The writing of Mr. Jones is pleasing to an old timer like myself, too. Seeing superheroes on their day off was enjoyable, and unlike most books the skirmish with the Steel Army at the Washington Monument was just that, a skirmish. If this were a Marvel Comic the fate of the world would have hinged on the outcome of the battle. No cosmic plotline here folks, just good straight forward story and art. Kinda like the good old days of the 1960's except the stories and art then weren't quite up to the level of *Protectors*.

The only real criticism I can make is that with only 24 pages there are an awful lot of characters in the book; let's see some more of the teams' individual personalities. I think Man Of War could become a very good character if allowed to break out of the Captain America/Batman mold. He would be fascinating if he were developed into a Robert E. Howard type of hero. Bring back the sword and put some more swash in his buckle. Outside of the barbarian titles there aren't a whole lot of swordsmen in comics these days.

Maybe I'm showing my age, but I just have to love a comic that has great art, a great script, interesting heroes and best of all NO die-cut covers, hologram trading cards or any of that stuff. This is a class act.

Keep up the magnificent work...

James D. Charles
Lovely, KY

Thank you for your comments. We're planning on keeping it as classic as possible; although I must admit, we do have a die-cut cover on Ferret *#1. In fact, the whole comic is die-cut.*

Dear *Protectors*,

What are the chances of you guys coming across a secret *Protector* or so to speak...a guardian angel, or

just a plain ol' helping hand at a time and place when and where it's needed the most?

I mean, Amazing Man is right. There has to be a way that the *Protectors* can carry the fight to their opponents; so what if there could be a dynamic duo detective and covert team to show the way?

Scott Spears
Hermitage, PA

Could be but if you'll keep reading, you'll see that things are unveiling just fine on their own. See, there's this guy called The Eye...

Dear *Protectors*,

I've been around since issue #1—and have *Arrow* and *Ferret*. I'm looking for *Protectors Handbook*—I just missed it. And both writing and art are solid. It's a nice and refreshing comic. It's definitely different from DC and Marvel—and Valiant and Image. It's a single-universe book and is simple. No seven or eight titled universe, or forty and fifty titled universe. Plain and simple, it's easy going. I like it, it feels homey.

My only request is (which I'm sure you guys are going to do), please reveal more about Brinkston and how it all happened and who was all there. That's it for now. Keep the creative team together—they make the book work.

Shawn Childress
Longmont, CO

We'll be revealing more and more about Brinkston as Protectors *progresses. Just wait and see...*

Dear *Protectors* crew,

Hello there! The first thing I would like to do is congratulate you on your success with *Protectors*. I think it's the most awesome comic around. Being one of your biggest fans (I have everything about *Protectors*, even articles), I would like to compliment you all for producing an ace comic. The thing I like most about it is the excellent plot and story. All the members of the *Protectors* are cool. Besides the story, the art is quite okay and the coloring is excellent too. I especially like the Witch and Ferret. I am almost 15 years old and I'm an avid comic collector. My most prized possession is my *Protectors* collection and I hope that you will all keep up the good work. I guess that's all. 'Til I write again, here's to the coming of the *Protectors* Universe!

Sanjit S. Randhawa
Malaysia

You think this is great, wait 'til the Protectors *toy line hits the stores at the end of the year! And be sure to tell all your friends and neighbors!*

Folks,

Protectors #4 continued to develop the characters and the opening storyline. I might have liked it better if it had been more of a story and less of a chapter, but that's a small objection to a fine comic.

Derenick and Deodato's artwork is a little more garish and flashy than it is expert. That's fairly appropriate for a super-hero comic, especially a Golden Age revival, except that their artwork is worse during fight scenes and best in highly emotive conversations.

Anybody starting a series about a super-hero team will be forced to cover a lot of familiar ground in the early issues; R.A. Jones is taking care of this painlessly, while still finding room for fresher material.

To paraphrase a review of a much older work, there is much that is original in *Protectors* and much that is good; some of what is good is original, and most of what is original is good.

John M. Burt
Corvallis, OR

Thanks, John. We aim to please.

Thanks for writing in, gang; keep it coming. And look forward to the next issue where we reveal some answers on Brinkston, the super-heroes go traveling and another Protector gets in mortal trouble. Check back in 30 days! 'Til then —Kara Lamb

PROTECTORS UNIVERSE
Over the course of the next year, Malibu will be expanding its Protectors Universe to include individual titles based around the most popular and intriguing characters in the group. Here's a checklist of what we've planned:

PROTECTORS (Every month)
Writer: R.A. Jones
Artist: Thomas Derenick

MAN OF WAR (April 1993)
Writers: Tom Mason & Dan Danko
Artist: Bryan Lee

FERRET (May 1993)
Writer: R.A.Jones
Artist: Dean Zachary

GRAVESTONE (July 1993)
Writer: Martin Powell
Artist: Thomas Derenick